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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NEOSE TECHNOLOGIES INC. [US/US]; 102 Witmer Road, Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): DEFREES, Shawn [US/US]; 126 Filly Drive, North Wales, Pennsylvania 19454 (US).

(74) Agent: MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP; 2 Palo Alto Square, 3000 El Camino Real, Suite 900, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (US).

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(54) Title: BRANCHED WATER-SOLUBLE POLYMERS AND THEIR CONJUGATES

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides branched water-soluble polymers that allow two or more water-soluble polymers to be conjugated to another species. The branched polymers provide access to therapeutic agents that are conjugated at a single site to two or more water-soluble polymers. The branched polymers are based upon branch points that are simple branched alkyl structures, reactive side-chain amino acids and small peptides of reactive side-chain amino acids, and saccharides. Also provided is a method for preparing mono-disperse poly(ethylene glycol) of a well-defined and determinable molecular weight, and a method for the rational end-functionalization of poly(ethylene glycol). Conjugates of the branched water-soluble polymers with diverse species, e.g., peptides, lipids, glycolipids and small molecules are also provided.